

## 2003 Gypsy Moth Trapping Detects 2 Moths in Summit Co.

Moths found near site of July  
Rainbow Family gathering

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) reports that trappers discovered Gypsy Moths in two traps placed in the Uinta Mountains of Summit County. The location of the traps is within a mile of the site of the July, 2003 gathering of more than 12,000 Rainbow Family members.

The Rainbow Family is a loosely organized group of people who practice an alternative lifestyle and gather yearly to pray for peace, enjoy the outdoors, and protect the planet.\*

The discovery of the two moths will not prompt a ground or aerial spray program to help control the insects, but will require the UDAF, along with U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Forest Service trappers to more closely monitor the moths' population during the next two years. If the population were to increase, then a control spray program would be sought.

This is the first time Gypsy moths have been detected in this area of the Uintas.

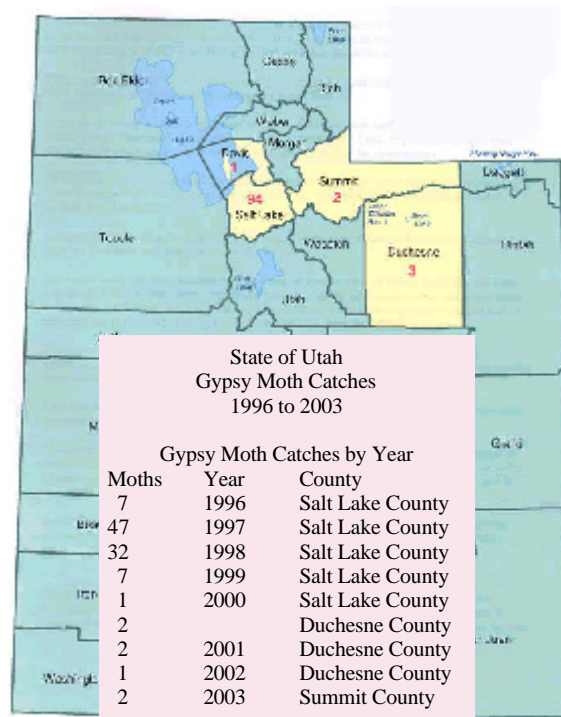
"This is an example of how easy it is for insects to be accidentally introduced into our state, said Dick Wilson, director of the Division of Plant Industry. "This also shows that our trapping and detection system is working," Wilson added.

Gypsy moths can devastate large forests by stripping trees of their leaves, causing trees to die. Several eastern states are unable to control the moth and spend millions of dollars each year to protect popular forests.

The Utah gypsy moth program works to protect forested watersheds which are the headwaters of much of the state's water and wildlife resources.

In the past eight years in Utah, a total of 100 gypsy moths have been captured in traps located in four different counties. They are: 94 moths in Salt Lake County, 3 moths in Duchesne County, two moths in Summit County, and 1 moth in Davis County.

Wilson speculates that the moths were discovered this year after their larvae was unknowingly brought into Utah by someone traveling to the Rainbow event



from an infested state. Travelers originating from such states are encouraged to clean off any outdoor furniture or other items where gypsy moths might lay eggs.

\*Information from the Rainbow Family's web page.

## You are invited...

to the department's holiday celebration and service awards luncheon on Wednesday, December 10th, 2003 at the new Salt Lake City Library lower level conference rooms A, B and C. A roast beef buffet will be offered at noon followed by many exciting activities, including our never-dull live auction, the annual service awards and a motivational presentation by USU professor, Jill Carter. Parking will be a challenge, so please carpool, or use the underground parking at the library. Validations will be available at the luncheon. The event is free to UDAF employees, guests tickets are available from employee's committee members for \$15.

# UTAH AG. NEWS 2003

Agriculture: Your Food Resource

**Utah Department of  
Agriculture & Food**

[www.ag.utah.gov](http://www.ag.utah.gov)



Governor  
Commissioner of Agriculture and Food  
Deputy Commissioner  
Public Information Office Editor

Olene S. Walker  
Cary G. Peterson  
Kyle Stephens  
Larry Lewis

## Utah Food Strategy Team Brings Producers and Buyers Together During First Annual "Utah's Own" Food Show

Making the connection between Utah's food producers and Utah's food retailers was the goal of the Utah Food Strategy Team conference held October 23, 2003 at the South Towne Exposition Center in Sandy.

Nearly 25 agricultural growers and food producers from around the state showed off their products at the conference with the hopes of making new sales.

The conference and food show was initiated by the Utah Food Strategy Team, a consortium of food producers and food marketers, in an attempt to draw attention to the benefits of Utah grown and produced foods.

"If the program could grow the agriculture economy by just one percentage point per year, it would mean a \$200 million increase to Utah farmers and ranchers," said Richard Sparks, UDAF Marketing Program Manager.

The group launched an advertising campaign last year, by introducing its logo, "Utah's Own," and is working with the State of Utah as well as large grocery store chains.



Jason and Natalie Price (*above right*) of Fairview, Utah own Sunbridge growers, and participated in the show as a way to make contact with restaurant buyers. Sunbridge produces a variety of products such as pea and sunflower shoots, wheat grains for juice, and pesto. They were looking to make contact with restaurant buyers as a way to expand their business.



"Utah's Own" logo

## GEORGE HOPKIN NAMED ACTING DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & CONSERVATION

*Richard Sparks Named Marketing Program Manager*

Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food, Cary G. Peterson, announced the appointment of George S. Hopkin as Acting Director of the Division of Marketing and Conservation. Hopkin assumes the position following the departure of former director, Randy Parker, to the Utah Farm Bureau. Commissioner Peterson praised Parker's excellent contribution to the department and wished him well in his new position.

Hopkin will continue his duties as manager of the division's Environmental Quality Section. He will also supervise the division's CAFO (Confined Animal Feeding Operations), Ground Water Testing, Salinity, ARDL Loan, and Soil Conservation programs. He will oversee the division that employs a staff of 16 people and is responsible for several domestic and international marketing programs.

"I am honored to be asked to fill this important position", said Hopkin. "I look forward to working closely with Commissioner Peterson, our legislative and executive office leaders, as well as our farmers, ranchers, and environmental partners," he added. "I am also excited about continuing a positive relationship with former director Randy Parker, as he assumes his new leadership position at the Utah Farm Bureau. I have a great deal of appreciation for his accomplishments here at the UDAF," he added.

Commissioner Peterson also named Richard Sparks as Marketing Program Manager to head the marketing responsibilities for the division. Sparks has been the division's Marketing Specialist since 1998, and has promoted Utah agricultural products at numerous food shows and conventions. Sparks is the department's representative on the Utah Food Strategy Team that recently created the agri-marketing campaign called, "Utah's Own."



(*left*) In some locations in the U.S. landowners can generate up to 30% of their farm/ranch income by leasing to power companies space for two or three wind mills.

(*right*) The breakdown of animal waste (stored in tall tanks) generates methane gas, that is collected and burned which turns a turbine that generates electricity.



### Energy From the Farm

Energy generated from the wind and biomass decomposition is offering Utah farmers and ranchers a potential new source of income. Utah farmers, legislators, state agency leaders, and the public recently toured two alternative energy projects that are already turning wind and animal waste into kilowatts. Florida Power and Light's Wyoming wind park near Evanston, Wyoming is generating enough energy to power 45,000 homes.

The biomass conversion project at the Ballard hog farm in Cache County converts manure from 4,400 pigs into methane gas, and then into energy. The farm generates enough energy to meet the needs of about 80 homes.